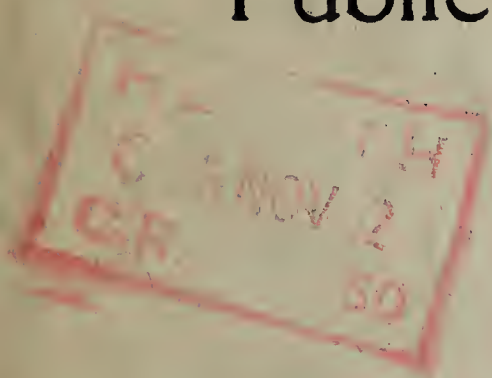


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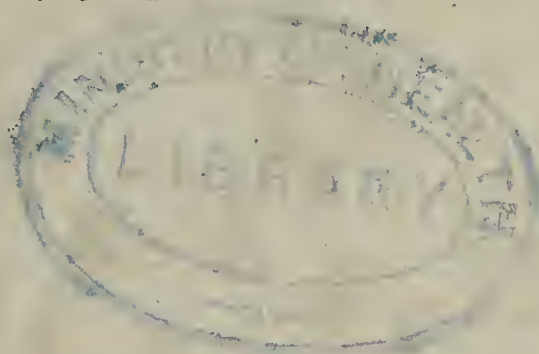
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE

Skelmersdale Urban District

DURING THE YEAR

1951



BY

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

E. Sidebotham, Printer, Wigan.

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SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1951.

Chairman W. J. FENNEY

Vice-Chairman J. S. WILLIAMS

Chairman of the Health Committee R. J. HUMPHREYS.

F. ACKRAY.

W. J. BROWN.

A. DAVIES.

T. A. FARRIMOND.

A. FOULKES.

H. HARDMAN.

J. T. LATHOM.

T. MOSTON.

L. RAINFORD.

J. W. SHUFFLEBOTHAM.

J. T. WAREING.

C. WELDING.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1951.

The general health of the District has remained good and the incidence of Infectious Disease has been negligible.

The results of Diphtheria Immunisation in Skelmersdale have continued to be satisfactory and there has been no case of the disease during the last six years, and no death during the last eleven years. The level of Immunisation has increased to 84.4% of the children under 15 years of age. There should be no complacency since we will only keep up the splendid record of no cases of Diphtheria if the level of Immunisation remains high amongst the child population of Skelmersdale.

The housing problem is still an urgent one in the District. During the year 21 new houses were built, but many more are required before the people of Skelmersdale can be anything like adequately housed.

Finally, I should like to thank the members of the Health Committee for their interest in matters of health and the Members of the Staff for their help and co-operation.

.I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GORDON HAILWOOD.

September, 1952.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Part-time).

(Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

Sanitary Inspector : NOEL BENSON, D.P.A. (Liverpool).

Area of the District — 1,942 acres.

Resident Population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1951) :
6,305.

Number of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at end of
1951 — 1,906.

Rateable value — £23,400.

Sum represented by a penny rate — £85.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1951.

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	40	50	90
Illegitimate	6	1	7

Crude birth rate per 1,000 estimated
population — 15.4.

Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 esti-
mated population — 15.2.

Still Births

Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)
births — 49.

Deaths	38	42	80
--------------------	----	----	----

Crude death rate per 1,000 esti-
mated population — 12.7.

Adjusted death rate per 1,000 esti-
mated population — 14.1.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis ...	—
Other maternal causes	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	62
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	62
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	9
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

BIRTHS

There were 97 births recorded in the Urban District during the year, of which 46 were male and 51 were female; and including 7 illegitimate births, of which 6 were male and 1 female. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population (mid-1951) (comparability factor 0.99) was 15.2 compared with 13.3 in 1950.

The number of births shewed an increase of 13 compared with 1950, an increase of 1.9.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths registered in the Urban District during the year number 80, of this number 38 were male and 42 female. This was an increase of 10 on the figure for 1950. The crude death rate for the year was 12.7 compared with 11.2 in 1950, an increase of 1.5. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.11) was 14.1 per 1,000 population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic and Epidemic diseases.

There were 6 deaths of infants under one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 62 per 1,000 live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT 1951

Causes of Death	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	2	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	5
Heart Diseases	15	11
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	3	3
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
All other accidents	—	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTALS	38	42

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year :

	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—
	2	4

Still Births :

	M.	F.
Legitimate	1	3
Illegitimate	1	—
	2	3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination at E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at the Ormskirk County Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance Services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

The Congregational Schoolroom in Whitham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Child Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of Dr. Robertson Wilson and Nurse Bodley of the Lancashire County Council.

An Immunisation Clinic is held on Wednesday afternoon in each month at 2-15 on the same premises by Dr. Robertson Wilson.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk County Hospital and the Wigan Hospitals provide ample accommodation for all patients from Skelmersdale.

Infectious cases are admitted to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The supply of water in the district continues to be, on the whole, satisfactory in quality and quantity. On the Eastern Boundary where the pressure was low owing to the higher elevation, a supply is now obtained for about twelve houses from the mains of the Upholland U.D.C. With this exception the whole of the district is supplied with water by the Southport and District Water Board from a deep well situated at Scarth Hill in the Parish of Lathom. The water is pumped from two deep boreholes at Scarth Hill to the adjoining water tower from which it gravitates through a 7" main to the district.

The average annual consumption by domestic users is about 53 million gallons. Giving a daily average consumption of 24 gallons per person.

Extracts from a recent report on a sample of water submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis are given below.

Chemical results expressed in parts per million

Total solids in solution	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	180
Total hardness	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	110
Oxygen absorbed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.10
Nitrate Nitrogen	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3.6
Nitrate Nitrogen less than	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	None
Albuminoid Nitrogen	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	None
Iron	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.10
Manganese	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.03
Other Metals	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	None
Fluoride less than	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.10
Free carbon dioxide	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	77
Ph value	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6.1

Bacteriological Results

Number of colonies developing on Agar per ml.

1 day at 37° C. — None.

2 days at 37° C. — None.

3 days at 20° C. Two.

Presumptive	Present in	Absent from	Probable number
Coli-aerogenes reaction	.... —ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
B Coli (Type 1)	.... —ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl welchii reaction	.... —ml	100 ml	—

The sample was clear, bright and free from metals, except minute traces of iron and manganese. It was acid in reaction and had a very high content of free carbon dioxide, features indicating a corrosive character.

This report shows that the water supplied is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Sewage Disposal

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 1502 houses in the principal housing area is discharged by gravity through a 24 inch outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works, and that from 255 houses by a 15 inch outfall sewer at their Penny Lane Works.

Sewage from a small number of houses in the Stormy Area is discharged into settling tanks at the rear of Summer Street.

The sewage at both works is treated by settlement and land irrigation and periodical cleansing and repairs are carried out. The Skelmersdale and Upholland Joint Sewerage Scheme, planned to improve the sewage disposal and provide for additional property is now estimated to cost £140,000.

Closet Accommodation

Privy Middens — 81. Number of closets attached to these Middens — 115.

Number of pail closets — 31.

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) — Nil.

Number of moveable ashbins — 1,791.

Number of houses on water carriage system — 1,760.

HOUSING

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year :—

- | | | |
|-------|--|----|
| (a) | Total (including numbers given under (b) :— | |
| (i) | By the Local Authority | 20 |
| (ii) | By other Local Authorities | — |
| (iii) | By other bodies and persons | 1 |
| (b) | With State assistance under the Housing Acts | |
| (i) | By the Local Authority | — |
| (ii) | By other bodies or persons | — |

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year :—

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 819 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 1,895 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | — |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | — |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation | — |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation | 318 |
| | | Number of nuisances discovered | 525 |
| | | Number of nuisances abated | 463 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	289
--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

4. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | — |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS

	Cases	Deaths	Dysentery	Fever with vomiting	Smallpox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Para-typhoid
No.	78	60	9	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	3	1	1
%	83.3	66.7	95.6	1.1	0	0	11.1	11.1	0	22.2	0	0	33.3	11.1	11.1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1951

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	YEARS											Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
		Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65 up-wards				65 & upwards
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
Measles	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	Unknown	4	
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS	16	—	—	2	—	1	2	1	—	3	5	1	1	7	6	5

The following table shows the Number, Monthly distribution and Nature of Cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1951—

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals	Removed to Hospital
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	2	9	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Total number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to and including 31st December, 1951 :—

	Age Groups		Total under
	0—4 years	5—14 years	15 years
Total Population in Age Groups	514	935	1449
Total Number Immunised	399	823	1220
Percentage	77.6%	88.0%	84.4%

Table shewing Incidence and Mortality from Diphtheria, 1941-1951

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases	1	4	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

SCARLET FEVER

Table shewing Incidence and Mortality from Scarlet Fever, 1941-1951.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases	4	4	5	10	8	5	6	5	—	1	1
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Influenza and other Respiratory Diseases

There were six deaths from Pneumonia recorded during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1951

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years									
0—1	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	....	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—55	....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS		3	1	2	1	1	—	—	—
		4		3		1		—	

Notifications on Form 1 by Medical Officers of Hospitals

				Public Assistance and General and Military Hospitals	Sanatoria and Pulmonary Hospitals
PULMONARY—					
Males	—	—
Females	—	1
NON-PULMONARY—					
Males	—	—
Females	—	—

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT HAS BEEN MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, MR. BENSON

During the period under review the normal work of the Department has proceeded satisfactorily.

Maintenance of housing standards occupies a greater part of the Official's time and throws into sharp relief at least three aspects of this problem.

There is the concern of the tenant, living in a sub-standard house, suffering many inconveniences and discomforts by lack of repair or amenity.

The owner too has his problem, rent returns have remained static for the past twenty years and he is faced with increased repair costs.

The Officer and the Local Authority are left with the problem of attempting to carry out fairly, and impartially the duties laid upon them by statute. This problem combined with the difficulty of administering, in some case, Acts which are vaguely defined and subject to differing interpretation by the Courts.

A noticeable movement is taking place in house ownership. Many of the small low rented type are being sold to the tenants. The landlords are thus ridding themselves of the liability for repairs to property, the income from which is negligible.

There have been few opportunities to make any marked progress in sanitary improvement, but efforts have been made to prevent serious deterioration of the standards already established.

Progress in the conversion of privy middens to water closets has only been made by encouraging owners to convert and qualify for the grant of £5 10s. 0d. paid by the Council towards the cost incurred.

Close attention has been paid to food hygiene in shops, bakehouses and canteens, and some publicity given to the importance of personal hygiene in this connection.

The sale of cockles and shrimps has evidently proved to be profitable judging by the applications received for the registration of premises. Most of the shellfish are gathered from layings in the Ribble estuary and processed in that area, being only bagged prior to sale in this district.

Although 318 Preliminary Notices were served it was only necessary to issue 13 Statutory Notices. No legal proceedings were taken. Repairs carried out to property in some instances were of a poor standard and barely sufficient to abate the nuisance.

The usual smooth co-operation between departments has been characteristic during the year, making it a pleasure to work with ones colleagues and tending towards better administration.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Most of the milk sold in the district is now heat treated (i.e., "Pasteurised" or "Sterilised") and can be classified as "safe." Three samples were taken from the one remaining dealer selling untreated milk. These when tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli proved to be "negative." Of nine samples taken from retailers and submitted for the Turbidity, methylene blue or phosphate test only one was unsatisfactory.

Licences for the sale of Designated Milks were granted to 14 distributors.

Ice Cream

The manufacture of ice-cream in the district has been discontinued. There are, however, ten premises registered for the sale of wrapped ice-cream made by the large outside firms.

Twelve samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were found to be satisfactory.

The bacteriologists' report placed eight of the samples in Grade 1 and four in Grade 2.

Ice-cream is graded into four, Grades 1 and 2 may be regarded as satisfactory.

Bakehouses

Regular visits were made to the seven small bakehouses in the district. Most of the premises are of the older type where only one or two persons are employed. The processes are, of course, performed generally by hand in this type of bakehouse and the standard of premises or hygiene is not always as high as could be desired. Old time bakers do not take too kindly to critical inspection of their premises or methods.

Limewashing and cleansing of walls and ceilings were carried out without written notification.

Factory and School Canteens

A high standard of cleanliness is generally maintained in the operation of factory and school canteens. The equipment for the necessary processes is good.

Although the number of meals served in factory canteens has declined, a large number of workers still avail themselves of the canteen facilities.

Unsound Food

The undermentioned articles of food were on inspection found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered :—

Food	No. of Tins	Weight	Reason for Condemnation
Butter		4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Rancid.
Beef		22 lbs.	Tubercular lesion in lymph gland.
Cheese		12 lbs.	Mould.
Fish	29	28 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Tins blown.
Fruit	2	3 lbs.	Tins blown.
Ham	15	167 lbs.	Decomposition.
Luncheon Meat	18	28 lbs.	Tins blown.
Milk	1	1 lb.	Tins blown.
Pork	7	7 lbs.	Tins blown.
Sausage		12 lbs.	Decomposition.
Vegetables	8	13 lbs.	Tins blown.

Whenever possible condemned food was used for animal feeding or inedible purposes, the remainder being destroyed.

Slaughtering

Most of the meat supplied in the district is obtained from Wigan or Liverpool Abattoirs.

A small number of pigs are killed at a private slaughterhouse, mostly at Christmas time. Others are slaughtered on the premises of the "small pig keeper" for home consumption.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, six licences to slaughter were granted.

Hawkers of Food

Sections 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, operate in this district and nine persons were registered for the sale of fish, fruit and vegetables.

Adulteration of Food

During the year samples of the following foods were taken by the Lancashire County Council. This Authority is responsible for sections of the Food and Drugs Acts 1938/50, dealing with adulteration of food.

Food	Number of Samples
Butter	1
Bacon	1
Barley	1
Self-raising flour	1
White pepper	1
Borax	1
Coffee	2
Mineral Water	4
Milk	10

All samples were reported by the County Analyst as genuine except one sample of milk which contained 2% extraneous water. The vendor was cautioned.

Rodent Control

Premises in the district at which rodent infestations were found or reported were treated by the Rodent Operator for the destruction of rats. Maintenance treatment for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out during February and August, only a small number of "takes" were recorded.

Refuse tips and sewage disposal works were also treated and the infestation found to be very small.

Routine investigations carried out by the part time Rodent Operator shewed no serious rat or mice infestation in the district.

Refuse Removal and Disposal

The refuse collection and disposal services have functioned satisfactorily during the year. The work is carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. Collection is effected by means of a Ford Thames Refuse vehicle operating with a driver and four men.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly and privy middens at intervals of approximately two months.

Disposal of refuse is by crude tipping on low lying land on the South Eastern boundary of the district.

Salvage

With the increased prices offered for waste paper, collection was again resumed and a bonus scheme introduced. During the year over sixteen tons of waste paper and rags were collected providing a net income of nearly £200.

Insect Infestation

Only a few serious cases of bug and flea infestation came to light during the year. Often the presence of a flea infestation only became apparent some time after the inspection of the premises. Prompt action is taken to deal with these cases by spraying the premises with 5% D.D.T. solution.

Cockroach infestations were treated by the application of D.D.T. powders or proprietary brands of pyrethrium powders which give quicker "knock-down" results.

Requests are sometimes made to remove other insects, ants, bees, flies, wasps, etc. Such a request was received to remove a swarm of bees which had hived between the ceiling and roof of a bay window in a doctor's surgery.

Protected by a net, an examination of the roof was carried out. When it became apparent that the removal of the swarm intact was impracticable, it was destroyed by the use of D.D.T. solution and pyrethrium powder.

Shops

Duties under the Shops Acts, 1950, relating to young persons, washing facilities, etc., were performed on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. Each shop was inspected about twice during the year.

Inspection was also made with the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Local Authority dealing with ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation in shops.

Schools

The four schools in the district were inspected and the sanitary fitments examined. When minor defects were noted and reported to the Divisional Office the necessary repairs were carried out fairly promptly.

Schemes for the abolition of the trough closets and replacement by wash-down water closets at two schools are being prepared by the Managers and the Lancashire County Council.

Cinemas

There are only two cinemas in the district, these were inspected and the conditions found to be satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7

Factories in the district were inspected and any defects found were remedied without the service of statutory notices.

Home Work Section 110

Occupiers of factories employing persons on certain kinds of work are required to send to the District Council in February and August lists of outworkers. The premises of all such home-workers were visited and conditions found to be satisfactory.

Means of escape in case of fire Section 34

Factory premises in the area were inspected. With the advice and co-operation of the Lancashire County Council, Fire Prevention Department, recommendations were made to owners to bring their means of escape up-to-date. All recommendations were carried out and in consultation with H.M. Inspector of Factories amended certificates were issued in certain cases.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Complaints received and investigated	321
Number of dwelling houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	819
Number of re-visits to premises	1076
Visits to factories and workplaces	32
Visits to bakehouses	18
Visits to food premises	50
Visits to dairies and milk shops	12
Visits to schools	19
Visits to licensed premises	26
Visits to shops	193
Visits to rodent control	84
Interviews with owners, agents and contractors	80
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	27
Visits re milk tubercle bacilli and methylene blue test	16
Visits re ice cream sampling	21
Number of preliminary notices served	318
Number of preliminary notices complied with	311
Number of statutory notices served	13
Number of statutory notices complied with	10

